public advertisement seeking expression of interest for JV participation in SIL. SIL has been directed to prepare an Action Plan for upgrading its product and process technology.

Disruption of DD Channels

†836. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether three channels of Doordarshan remained disrupted for hours on 17th April, 2001;

(b) if so, the names of channels, the hours for which the channels remained disrupted and reasons for the same;

(c) whether Government have taken any action against the officials responsible for disruption of the channels;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and Government's response in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Transmission of three Satelite channels, *viz.* DD-Sports, DD-World, and DD-News, was disrupted for about 1 hour 35 minutes on 17th April 2001 due to burning of a power supply change-over switch.

(c) to (e) Prasar Bharati has informed that since the disruption was not due to negligence by staff, no action against any staff member is envisaged. However, all the concerned staff members have been instructed to be extra vigilant in future.

Visit of delegation abroad

837. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation headed by her had visited US, UK and Japan in the second week of June, 2001;

(b) if so, the achievements made as a result of her visits; and

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(c) the total expenditure incurred by the Government on the delegation?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) A FICCI delegation led by the Minister of Information and Broadcasting visited Japan and US in the second week of June 2001.

(b) The objective of the visit of the delegation to Japan and US was to show case internationally the achievements and potential of the Indian Entertainment industry and to explore fresh avenues for business development. Some immediate achievements of the visit are: (i) The possibility of more Indian films being released in Japan, with the NHK considering to increase the number of Indian films screened by them; (ii) Talks have been initiated by Indian companies with their Japanese counterparts for doing animation work in India; (iii) An increased interest evinced by US companies and International Finance Corporation (IFC) in funding the media and broadcast sectors; (iv) An offer of assistance from Motion Picture Association of America (MPA) to help curb piracy of Indian films in the US. In addition, the members of the delegation got extensive opportunity to interact with their overseas counterparts.

(c) The approximate amount spent on the delegation by the Government on travel and daily allowance is Rs. 11 lakhs. This is subject to adjustment after settlement of the bills in this regard

Suspension of corrupt employees

†838. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of employees of various organisations under her Ministry have been suspended on corruption charges during March, 1998 to June, 2001;

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.